

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-9, 11-12, and 14 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 10, 13, and 15 are pending. Claims 10, 13, and 15 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 12-13 and 15 stand objected to in the Office Action as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The Examiner objected to the drawings for reasons stated in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that the enclosed new drawings obviate the Examiner's objections.

Claims 1-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,574,979 to West ("West"). Claims 1-9, 11, and 14 have been canceled. Independent claim 10 has been amended to include features of dependent claims 11 and 12. Claim 12 has been indicated by the Examiner to represent allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 10 distinguishes over West and respectfully requests that the rejection thereof be withdrawn.

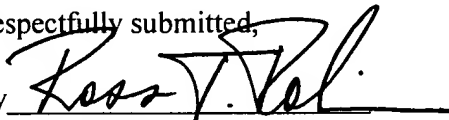
Claim 13 has been amended to include features of independent claim 10 and dependent claim 11. Claim 13 has been indicated by the Examiner to represent allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is in condition for allowance

Claim 15 has been amended to include features of independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11 and 14. Claim 15 has been indicated by the Examiner to represent allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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